

Happy Half Term – thank you so much for your continued support of your child’s education (whether in school or at home).

The past six weeks have been hard for everyone, on many different levels and in many different ways. A roller coaster ride; the expectations on families has been huge – but you are all amazing, you have all stayed strong and positive.

We will get there!

Safer Internet Workshops: We have arranged two online workshops for parents. This is an opportunity not to be missed and I would urge you to put one of the two dates in your diary.

The sessions will be run by Kat Howard, an expert in e-safety. The focus will be on helping you to ensure your children stay safe when on the internet. There will be wide ranging and relevant topics of discussion including an overview of the most popular social media sites, many of which (eg TikTok) pose a real concern in terms of safety.

Session 1: THURSDAY 4th MARCH at 6:30 – 7:30pm

Session 2: THURSDAY 11th MARCH at 6:30 – 7:30pm (this will be a repeat of the first session)

I cannot recommend this highly enough. Details of how to log-in will be sent out nearer the time.

PTA Donate Your Commute: This half term, there is a chance to Donate Your Commute! Now that fewer of our parents are travelling to work, you might be willing and able to donate the money saved on your commute. You decide whether to donate the cost of a single journey, a two way journey, or several days’ journeys.

Seven families have made a contribution so far; let’s hope that this increases over the next few weeks! Log on to the School gateway to donate your commute.

Our next PTA meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday 9th March

New Islington Marina development: The development of the marina is well underway, with a project to build floating nests for ducks and swans. A new duck house is being built too – and our pupils have been invited to name the duck house! The chosen name will be engraved on a wooden plaque and hung on the duck house for all to see. **Can anyone top “A Box of Quackers” from (Kai and daddy)**

Competition time: Here's a great photo competition for everyone: *MCR Women Bike* is back, welcoming girls, women and children to **upload a photo of you with your bike** - holding a sign stating the reasons why you like to cycle. The project will run up to **International Women's Day 8th March 2021** and there are prizes to be won! Please get involved:

Upload your photo - <https://www.powwow-pedal-power.org.uk/mcr-women-bike>

Screen Free Half Term: Here are some links you might enjoy

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers/news/ten-ideas-for-a-screen-free-half-term>

<https://www.newislingtonschool.org/nifs/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Non-screen-activities.pdf>

<https://www.screenfreeparenting.com/screen-free-activities>

<https://www.newislingtonschool.org/nifs/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Challenge-Yourself-A-Fun-Resource-for-Manchester-Pupils.pdf>

Advance notice - The first World Book Day at home! On Thursday 4th March, you are invited to dress up as your favourite book character for school or your online lessons!

With many shops closed, you may want to recycle your costume from last year or create a new one from the clothes you have at home. Perhaps you could get really creative and make one with old materials or things that would otherwise be thrown away.

On Thursday 4th March you can upload a photo of yourself onto Teams and each teacher will choose their most impressive and creative World Book Day costume. The winner from each class will be announced in assembly on Friday 5th March.

Book tokens: This year, we will be sending out book tokens via email. You can get £1 off a full-price book, or you can purchase one of the special £1 books that have been released especially for World Book Day.

All this information will be sent again out after half term, but we thought you might like to get ahead and get creative with your costumes during the holiday!

As always, contact me any time: t.smith@newislingtonschool.co.uk